

N 309(c)

[illegible]

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

Reference Slip from Headquarters.

To:	INSTRUCTIONS:
D.C. (Divs.)	For disposal
" (Crime)	Furnish data
" (S.B.)	Investigate and report
S.D.C.	Note and return
D.C. (F.2.)	Report present status
A.C. (F.2.)	Submit recommendation
D.C. (C.)	For further report
A.C. (C.)	For opinion
D.C. (Specials)	Reply to writer direct
" (A. & T. R.)	As instructed
" (Sikhs)	See me in re:
A.C. (Traffic)	Inform Applicant
D.O.A. Divn.	Draft Reply
" B. Divn.	For necessary action
" C. Divn.	Attach file
" D. Divn.	For information
Gov. of Gaol.	Comment
Personal Assistant	For verification
Quartermaster	Note and File
Pay Office	Attach to File
Central Registry	
Legal Dept.	
C.C.R.	
P.L.S.	

*Mr. Koma interviewed by
of. Pitts, everything satisfactory*

Office of Commissioner
Initials *92.11.40*
SHANGHAI
For File *[Signature]*
Date *[Signature]*
Noted and Returned
Date */ /*

THIS SLIP MUST NOT BE DETACHED.

"I. C."
SASSOON HOUSE
SHANGHAI.
CABLES: "ICYGRAM"
P. O. BOX 2140
TELEPHONE 16637
FK/Fa.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
G. B. R. REGISTRY
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
ORGANIZATION OF EUROPEAN IMMIGRANTS
IN CHINA

SHANGHAI. 22nd November 1940.

To the Commissioner of Police,
Shanghai Municipal Police,
Shanghai.

Dear Sir:-

The receipt of your letter dated November 20, 1940, is acknowledged with thanks, and contents have been noted.

Nevertheless, I would like to point out again that the first Press notice regarding the performance of "DIE MASKEN FALLEN" at the hall of the British Embassy on November 9th and 10th appeared in the "Jewish Chronicle" on October 20th, 1940, already, but I was not approached nor informed that the Police were against the production.

In this connection, I have heard rumours that it is intended to produce the play in English in the Lyceum Theatre. I do not know, at present, if these rumours are based on truth. I would appreciate if you would inform me whether you know of this matter and what attitude you will take towards the production in English and presumably played by English actors.

Regarding a close co-operation, I am recalling a telephone conversation with Mr. Young sometime ago, during which it was tentatively agreed that we would consult one another before further licences for German language papers were granted. Nevertheless, a licence to the "MITARBEITER" was granted without such consultation, and we only heard by chance of the establishment of a further paper the first issue of which is, to our knowledge, to appear today.

Whilst no objection is raised by this Committee to the "MITARBEITER", it must nevertheless be realized by you that co-operation on our part is made somewhat difficult in the circumstances.

Yours faithfully,

D. C. (Cr & Sp. Branch)

"I.C." ORGANIZATION FOR IMMIGRANTS

He is already offering for some assistance of any standing you have better inform him Summary.



INDEXED BY
(G.B.) REGISTRY
DATE 11/12/40

FORM 200 C/R
G. 3000-8-40

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

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C.C.R.	
P.L.S.	

Initials *72*

10.11.40

SHANGHAI

For File *10.11.40*

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

SPECIAL INQUIRY

Date / /

Noted and Returned

Date / /

November 20,

40.

Paul Komor, Esqre:
Hon. Secretary,
International Committee for the
Organization of European Immigrants
in China,
S H A N G H A I.

Dear Sir:

I have to acknowledge receipt of your PK/Fa, dated November 19, 1940, and do not question the facts you put forward. It is true Police had knowledge of the existence of the play in question for a long time, and did, in fact, prevent its production in public places. The Police had not knowledge, until a few days before the day set, of the recent showing which was arranged by the Producer without reference to this Department.

The call on you by a Police Officer to which you refer, was in my instructions, simply to request your good offices in connection with such propaganda activity in future. There was no intention whatever, to indicate any lack of cooperation on your part, but I shall be very grateful if you will keep close touch with the Police Department in such matters in future, as I am convinced it is in the public interest to

- 2 -

stop such political activity by refugees.

Yours faithfully:

A handwritten signature, possibly reading 'mB', in dark ink.

Commissioner of Police.

IW/.

"I. C."
SASSOON HOUSE
SHANGHAI.
CABLES: "ICYGRAM"
P. O. BOX 2140
TELEPHONE 16637

PK/Fa.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
ORGANIZATION OF EUROPEAN IMMIGRANTS
IN CHINA

SHANGHAI 19th November 1940.

To the Commissioner of Police,
Shanghai Municipal Police,
Shanghai.

Dear Sir,

In connection with the recent production of the play "DIE MASKEN FALLEN" I had the pleasure yesterday of a call from Sub-Inspector Wittinsky who suggested that in matters of Public Interest wherein the Emigrants in our midst might possibly be concerned or their special interests may be affected, there should be more co-operation between the S.M.P. and this organization.

May I observe that I am not aware that such co-operation has been lacking on the part of this Committee which has, indeed, given all the assistance that it could reasonably give in the past and certainly intends to do so also in the future.

With reference to this special case, may I be permitted to observe that evidently the Police were acquainted with the play and the intention to produce it quite sometime ago.

Furthermore, the "Shanghai Jewish Chronicle" brought press-notices beginning with its issue of 20th October almost daily, the "North China Daily News" also printed an article in this connection on the 31st October.

As far as this Committee is aware, not until then was any objection raised to the production of the play. There was, therefore, no previous occasion whatsoever for this organization to take any steps in the direction of persuading the producers to abstain from their project.

The producers had, themselves, gone so far with their project at the time when Mr. Speelman's letter appeared in the "North China Daily News" that, evidently, they could not cancel the performances without taking a considerable loss.

I myself attached no special significance to the production of the play although, in private conversation, I voiced doubts as to the advisability or desirability of producing it here and at this time, even going so far as to say, that I thought the production illtimed, but I cannot claim that my own opinion must be conclusive and correct nor have I any means or wish to impose such opinion on any one. I must add that the play was not submitted to me for reading and I have no knowledge of its contents beyond that which has appeared in the Press subsequent to its initial production.

"I. C." to the Commissioner of Police, S.M.P., Shanghai.

The fact is, that not until Friday last was I approached with the request that I use the influence of my organization to have further performances, which were advertised to take place on the 16th and 17th inst., cancelled and the "I.C." did what it could, in the very short space of time at its disposal, in this direction.

Had the "I.C." been approached by the S.M.P. in the first place with the request that it use its good offices, it might have been possible to persuade the producers in a friendly way to comply with the, no doubt well grounded, wishes of the Police.

I can give you the assurance that this Committee is always ready to co-operate, as far as it is in its power to do so, with the authorities but, reasonably, it must be given a fair chance to do so or, otherwise, a situation might arise which it is impossible to remedy and which might possibly do harm, more especially to the Emigrants themselves.

Yours faithfully,

"I.C." IS ORGANIZATION
FOR
EMIGRANTS

Paul A. Jones
Gen. Secretary

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

C.S.6, Special Branch. ~~XXXX~~

REPORT

Date November 19, 1940.

Subject (in full) German Refugee Play - "Die Masken Fallen".

Made by D.S.I. Wittinsky. Forwarded by Supt. Mason.

In compliance with verbal instructions received from Mr. Bennett, A.C.1/c Special Branch, Mr. P. Komor was visited by the undersigned and made cognizant with the gist of the attached file. He promised his whole-hearted co-operation in endeavouring to curb political agitation in future.

Mr. M. Siegelberg, the producer of the play "Die Masken Fallen", was summoned to this office, on the 18-11-40, and was strongly warned against future political activities of this nature.

1st player on
16 and 17th is
advertised in
press.

Commr. of Police.

Sir:

Information.

19/11/40

P. Bennett

A.C. (S.A.)

A.C. (Special Branch).

D. S. I. Wittinsky



C O N F I D E N T I A L
.

Date.....November 15, 1940.

(Headquarters) Office Notes

D.C. (Crime) & (Special Branch).
-----**CONFIDENTIAL**GERMAN REFUGEE PLAY - "DIE MASKEN FALLEN".

With reference to the above, as was anticipated, the German Consul General has taken exception to the shewing of this play, and a personal letter in these terms has been received by the Secretary & Commissioner General.

I informed the Council that I have written to the British Consul General on the subject a week ago, and the shewing of the play had been altered from public exhibition by the purchase of tickets to a private shewing with free tickets, thereby altering the situation somewhat.

The Secretary & Commissioner General interviewed the British Consul General this morning, and later held conversations with the German Consul General. The latter has now agreed to consider the matter closed, but requests that the Municipal Police will

- A. Take a very strong line with the producers of this play, and warn them that political agitation of this nature will not be tolerated in future; and
- B. Inform Mr. Komor of the whole business, and enlist his assistance in keeping down political agitation in future.

I have informed the Secretary General that I am prepared to do this. Please, therefore, act accordingly, and record action taken in a short report for completion of this file.


Commissioner of Police.

IW/.

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

November 15, 1940.

D.C. (Crime) & (Special Branch).

CONFIDENTIAL

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- A. Take a very strong line with the professors of this play, and warn them that political agitation of this nature will not be tolerated in future; and
- B. Inform Mr. Kemmer of the whole business, and enlist his assistance in keeping down political agitation in future.

I have informed the Secretary General that I am prepared to do this. Please, therefore, act accordingly, and record action taken in a short report for completion of this file.

Sd. K. M. Dearn
Commissioner of Police.

Emigre Showing Of Jewish Play Cancelled Here

German Pressure Said Brought To Bear On Local Committee

Fear that Jews in Germany would suffer further persecutions caused sponsors of "The Mask Ball," a locally-written play in German by Jewish emigres, to cancel further performances, it was learned today.

The play was not performed on Saturday and Sunday evenings as had been scheduled although two performances were held during the previous week at the British Press Attache's Hall on The Bund. Two additional showings for the coming Saturday and Sunday have also been cancelled.

"Illness" Said Reason

The Jewish emigre committee declared that the reason for the failure of the show to take place on Saturday and last night was due to "the illness of one of the principal actors."

It is learned, however that a member of the German Consulate in Shanghai telephoned to Mr. Paul Komor of the Jewish emigre committee and "requested" that further performances of the play should be cancelled.

Reprisals Against Jews

The German official, it is understood, also indicated that unless the play would be stopped reprisals would be taken against Jews living in Germany and also against Jewish emigres here.

Questioned this morning about the telephone conversation with the German official, Mr. Komor declared to the Shanghai Evening Post that he did not wish to deny or confirm it, adding that he was not the press spokesman for the Jewish emigre committee, and that it would be necessary to speak to Mr. Ellis Haykin.

Mr. Ellis Haykin, Chairman of the Jewish emigre committee, when questioned by the Shanghai Evening Post, would not deny that a German official had spoken to him, but he refused to say whether the official had requested the cancellation of the play.

"The Mask Ball" written by Emma Engelberg and Peter, depicts the suffering which took place in Austria following the Nazi invasion. A translation from the German has already been completed and is being put into English by Julius Kohn and will be presented here in the near future.

After the two last performances of the play which were held last week, strong objections were expressed to the play by the German Consulate, and it was

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
SR. BR. REGISTRY

309(c)

18 11 46

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

NOV 6 1940

**"Die Masken Fallen":
A Delicate Suggestion**

To the Editor of the

"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS"

Sir,—I would like to suggest that Messrs. OSMY LEWIN, MARK SCHLESINGER, HANS WHEWER and your correspondent DORCA take over the arduous and thankless task of the Committee for the Assistance of Jewish Refugees. Their great talents would no doubt be better able to grapple with the many problems the Committee has to face, including whether this is the time for masks to fall or not to fall, than those who for many months past have given of their time, and of their means so generously, to a difficult, and very complicated situation.

DOWRY DORCA.

Shanghai, Nov. 5.

127

Jewish Play Showing Set For Weekend

Two further performances of "Die Masken Fallen" (The Masks Fall) by Mark Siegelberg and Hans Wiener will be given at 8 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, November 16 and 17, in the auditorium of the British Press Attache's Office at No. 28 The Bund.

Brilliantly written, the play deals with Nazi persecution of Jews in Austria at the time of its annexation, a subject with which actual experience have made the authors only too familiar.

Every member of the cast of 20 is a Jewish emigre, among them being several players with many years of stage experience in Vienna. The cast is headed by Miss Lily Kahn, well-known night-club entertainer.

The initial performances of "Die Masken Fallen" held last weekend were so successful that it was decided to give two further performances. It is hoped that this German play is translated into English and presented here, made to give the play the widest audience.

There will be no charge of admission to "Die Masken Fallen" and tickets can only be obtained by applying to the Secretariat of the Chronicle at No. 17, Canton Road.

Jewish Play Is Outstanding Hit

Money Repaid As SMP
Appear On Scene;
JRC Objects

Despite several attempts by the Jewish Refugee Committee here to prevent its showing, "The Masks Fall," an original five-act play by Mark Siegelberg and Hans Wiener on the persecution of Jews by the Nazis, was presented to a capacity audience in the British Press Attache's Hall on Saturday evening.

Threats that the actors in the play would not be given further support by the committee if they would perform, are understood to have been made, while a final effort on Saturday evening to prevent the show from taking place by obtaining police refusal to allow any further admission because of the nature of the play was foiled when the sponsors of the show refunded the money to all those with tickets and allowed them to retain their seats.

Outstanding Success

The play was an outstanding success and by noteworthy and restrained portrayals on the part of the cast, remained fine entertainment, although obviously intended to be propaganda.

Skilful portrayals were given in the leading roles by Karl Bodan, Lily Flohr, Helga Berliner, a talented young lady, only 10 years old, Fritz Melchior, Herbert Zernik, Kurt Lewin, Ursula Perlehoelter and Josef Meister, while those in the smaller parts, included Fritz Wraschter, Hains Canther and Margot Walloch.

The story is laid in Austria, a few days before the Anschluss. It develops a strong theme in which an Aryan woman, married to a Jewish newspaperman for 10 years, seeks a divorce from her husband because she has fallen in love with another man. Before she can get her divorce, however, her husband and his old father are taken away to a concentration camp, following the arrival of the Nazis.

Perplexed Woman

The tragic plight of her husband brings a change to the woman who decides to forget about the divorce and, instead, applies every means she can to obtain the release of her husband and father-in-law.

Thus she finally succeeds in doing so and obtains two tickets for them to go to Shanghai. At the moment the old father, terrified by the order to the concentration camp, realizes that they are still in love with each other.

He sacrifices his freedom by throwing himself before an on-coming train and is killed leaving the couple free to leave for Shanghai.

11861

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
SP. BR. REGISTRY
No. 11. 30900
12 11 44

CHINA PRESS

Performed By Jews
Anti-German
Play To Be
Given Tonight

Sponsored by the Shanghai Jewish Chronicle, German emigre publication here, "Die Masken Fallen" (The Masks Fall), a play in the German language, will be staged today and tomorrow in the British Press Attache's Hall, 33 The Bund. The occasion coincides with the anniversary of the anti-Jewish excesses in Germany in November 1938.

Written in Shanghai by Mark Siegelberg, the play deals with the problem confronting Jews married to Aryans. A Jewish journalist is about to be divorced by his Aryan wife shortly after the German annexation of Austria. The play depicts the life and struggles of the couple.

Leading role is played by Karl Rodan, who also directs. The feminine leads are taken by Madeline Lilly Fisher and Ursula Rothstein. Herbert Zerkow, Fritz Schuster and Walter Berg fill out the cast.

Wysenk

A.P.S. Kang Lee

[Handwritten signature]

215

notes
JRK
9111

FILE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L

November 6,

40

H.B.M. Consul General,

H.B.M. Consulate,

S H A N G H A I

CONFIDENTIAL

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to a German play called "The Masks are Dropped" and the attached reports dated August 20 and November 5, 1940.

It is the opinion of the Special Branch with whom I agree that the staging of this play in British official premises is quite a different matter to the staging of British films and so on and may result in political reprisals which it is so much desired to avoid in this International city.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



FILE
16
11

Sd. K. M. Bourne.

Commissioner of Police.

August 20, 1940

Attached Communication from Dr. Mark Siegelberg.

With reference to the attached communication from Dr. Mark Siegelberg, dated 12-8-40, wherein Police permission to stage a German play entitled "The Matrimony of Dr. Brach" is sought, the following particulars have been obtained:

Dr. Mark Siegelberg, born in Luzk, Russia, on the 11-6-1895, emigrated in his early youth to Vienna, Austria, where he became the editor of several political newspapers. When Austria was annexed by the third Reich, Dr. Siegelberg was arrested and subsequently sent to several concentration camps in Austria and Germany.

Following his release from the concentration camp he left for Shanghai, arriving here, accompanied by his wife, on the 27-6-39 on board the s.s. "Conte Biancamano". Dr. Siegelberg arrived here with a German "J" passport, but failed to prolong this passport and several months ago took out Russian Emigrants' papers.

Following his arrival here, Dr. Siegelberg, wrote a book entitled "Jewish Prisoner No.13877", in the German language, which was printed by the "American Press", 542 Avenue Joffre. In the said book, Dr. Siegelberg describes his experiences in the various concentration camps in Austria and Germany.

On the 15-8-40, Dr. Siegelberg registered a weekly German language newspaper "Das Echo" (Reg.No.F.94) but did not commence publication, as he, at that time, received an offer from the "Jewish Chronicle", Hamilton House, to become it's editor. Dr. Siegelberg holds the latter position at present, and is residing at 41/3 Muirhead Road.

Several weeks ago Dr. Siegelberg approached D.S.I. Wittinsky enquiring as to the advisability of staging his play "The Matrimony of Dr. Brach" in

Shanghai. He was informed by the latter that before staging the play, he would have to get Police permission through the official channels. However, before submitting the manuscript to the Police, Dr. Siegelberg sent a copy of the same to Captain Inatsuki of the Japanese Naval Landing Party, who stated that there are no objections from his point of view, and forwarded a letter of consent to Dr. Siegelberg.

The subject of the above play is definitely political and deals partly with the "Racial Theory". Scenes in a concentration camp (Act 4) dealing with atrocities and tortures of Jews are vividly described. The play which cannot be classified as cultural or recreational is likely to cause incidents and breach of peace, if staged publicly and without Police protection. Attached to this report are several excerpts of the play and their translations.

Enquiries reveal that Dr. Siegelberg's reason for staging "The Matrimony of Dr. Brach" in Shanghai is, of an entirely commercial nature, namely, to assist the sale of the said play in the U.S.A. To push the sale of his manuscript Dr. Siegelberg requires enthusiastic press reviews, which he is able to obtain, being the chief editor of the "Jewish Chronicle".

Dr. Siegelberg proposes to stage this play in the Kinchow Road Camp, 100 Kinchow Road; the date to be fixed subject to the issue of a permit by the Police. The performance is proposed to take place on three consecutive evenings, and an attendance of 300 persons is expected on each occasion. Dr. Siegelberg wishes to stress the fact that the audience will be composed exclusively of German Jewish Refugees, and believes that consequently there will not be any disturbances.

- 3 -

There is nothing to the detriment of Dr. Mark Siegelberg in S.W.P. records.

November 5, 1940

"The Masks are Dropped" (Die Masken Fallen) - Play
by Dr. Mark Siegelberg.

With reference to the query of the P.A. to D.C. (Crime & Special Branches) on the attached cutting from the North China Daily News, dated 4-11-40, I beg to state that on the 12-8-40, Dr. Mark Siegelberg submitted to the Special Branch for examination and approval the manuscript of his play entitled "The Matrimony of Dr. Brach", with the ultimate intention of staging it in the Kinchow Road Refugee Camp. Owing, however, to the "international character of the Settlement" permission to stage the play was not granted. Full particulars regarding Dr. Siegelberg and his play are contained in the attached report submitted by this Section on August 20th, 1940.

Having met with Police refusal, Dr. Siegelberg approached Mr. J.A. Alexander, British Press Attache, who put the stage located in the British Press Attache's Offices, 28 The Bund, at Dr. Siegelberg's disposal. According to Dr. Siegelberg, Mr. J.A. Alexander has read the play and told the author that if he changes the title and eliminates harsh expressions, he (Mr. Alexander) would take all responsibility for the presentation.

"The Masks are Dropped" (new title for "The Matrimony of Dr. Brach") is scheduled to be publicly staged between 8 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. on the 9th and 10th instant at the Offices of the British Press Attache, 28 The Bund. Tickets for the presentation of the play are being sold at the Editorial Offices of the "Shanghai Jewish Chronicle", 17 Canton Road. Prior to the issue of a ticket, persons are requested to state their names and addresses, similar to the procedure adopted by the Attache's Office, when issuing admission tickets to British War Films. The accommodating capacity of

the room at 28 The Bund is 150 seats and the prices of tickets are ranging from \$2.- to \$8.- The profits derived from the staging of "The Masks are Dropped" will be divided among the author and the participating actors.

Mr. M. Speelman, Chairman of the Committee for Assistance to Shanghai Jewish Refugees, feels that at a time like the present, Jewish Refugees should disassociate themselves from political work of any description and consequently published a letter on the 3-11-40 to that effect in the North China Daily News. Both Mr. Speelman's letter and the "Author's Reply" are attached herewith.

Shanghai, August 12, 1940

To the
Commissioner,
Shanghai Municipal Police.

Sir,

We beg leave to apply for the permission to stage our play, "Die Ehe des Doktor Brach" (The Matrimony of Dr. Brach) in the Kinchow Road Refugee Jewish Centre (Kinchow Buehne). The play is in the German language.

The above-mentioned play treats a problem, that for years has occupied the minds of the Jews in Europe: "Racial Theory". Following are the contents of the play:

Shortly before the German occupation of Austria, Dr. Brach, a Jewish journalist, is about to be divorced by his wife Christine, an "Aryan". The reason for the divorce is, that Christine has fallen in love with another man. When the Germans take over, Dr. Brach is arrested and taken to a Concentration Camp. This even makes his wife change her mind. She resolves to give up the divorce and to hold out until her husband will be freed. She fights untiringly for the release and finally succeeds. In this fight lasting many months, the couple again gets convinced, that they belong to one another, so they emigrate together to Shanghai.

The play sets out to prove, that love between two people, even if they seemingly belong to different races, is stronger than any "Racial Theory". The play does not decide itself for either race and centres on the fight of the "Aryan" woman for her Jewish husband.

On account of the problem, of universal interest, discussed in it, the play has already been accepted by the "Oesterreichische Buehne" in New York, the foremost theatre of German refugees. At the same time the play is translated into English.

The two play-wrights (one of them for more than twenty years editor-in-chief of one of the biggest dailies

in Austria) desire that the play, of such interest for Jews, is staged here in a Refugee theatre. We intend to show the play only before an exclusively Jewish Refugee audience and not before the general public. Therefore the "Kinchow-Buehne", the theatre in the Jewish Refugee Centre, Kinchow Road, has been chosen.

The play being staged in Hongkew, has already been examined by the Japanese authorities. They have no objections at all and have forwarded to us their written consent.

Therefore we hope and expect that the Shanghai Municipal Police will give us the necessary permission.

We remain, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed) Mark Siegelberg

(Dr. Mark Siegelberg. (Not de plume:
Willi Kram) and Hans Wiener)

C/o Dr. Mark Siegelberg

P.O.B. 1914.

CONFIDENTIAL

H 1000 2 2 2

10. 10. 10

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The following is a summary of the information
received from the British Film Commission
on 10. 10. 10.

During the last few months the reports dated
10. 10. 10 have been received.

The following is a summary of the information
received from the British Film Commission
on 10. 10. 10.

Burton's film "The 400 Blows" is a different
matter to the story of British films and
so are all many ^{results in political} ~~more~~ ^{refusals} which it is
so much desired to avoid in the future.

A5.

7 L L L E 6

705

CP

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

C.S.6, Special Branch. ~~XXX~~ Station,

REPORT

Date November 5, 1940.

Subject "THE MASKS ARE DROPPED" (Die Masken Fallen) - Play by Dr. Mark Siegelberg.

Made by D.P.S. Danemanis. Forwarded by Supt. Mason.

With reference to the query of the P.A. to D.C. (Crime & Special Branches) on the attached cutting from the North China Daily News, dated 4-11-1940, I beg to state that on the 12-8-40, Dr. Mark Siegelberg submitted to the Special Branch for examination and approval the manuscript of his play entitled "The Matrimony of Dr. Brach", with the ultimate intention of staging it in the Kinchow Road Refugee Camp. Owing, however, to the "international character of the Settlement" permission to stage the play was not granted. Full particulars regarding Dr. Siegelberg and his play are contained in the attached report submitted by this Section on August 20th, 1940.

Having met with Police refusal, Dr. Siegelberg approached Mr. J. A. Alexander, British Press Attaché, who put the stage located in the British Press Attaches Offices, 28 The Bund, at Dr. Siegelberg's disposal. According to Dr. Siegelberg, Mr. J. A. Alexander has read the play and told the author that if he changes the title and eliminates harsh expressions, he (Mr. Alexander) would take all responsibility for the presentation.

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*Common
A very risky
business
which I would
stop if I
could.*



*7 agree with you
to Mr. Alexander was
in his case*



SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.....

REPORT

.....Station,

Date.....19

- 2 -

Subject.....

Made by.....Forwarded by.....

of a ticket, persons are requested to state their names and addresses, similar to the procedure adopted by the Attache's Office, when issuing admission tickets to British War Films. The accommodating capacity of the room at 28 The Bund is 150 seats and the prices of tickets are ranging from \$2.- to \$8.- The profits derived from the staging of "The Masks are Dropped" will be divided among the author and the participating actors.

Mr.M.Speelman, Chairman of the Committee for Assistance to Shanghai Jewish Refugees, feels that at a time like the present, Jewish Refugees should disassociate themselves from political work of any description and consequently published a letter on the 3-11-40 to that effect in the North China Daily News. Both Mr.Speelman's letter and the "Ather's Reply" are attached herewith.


D. P. S.

D.C.(Special Branch).

NOV 5 1940

**"Die Masken Fallen":
An Amazing Protest**

To the Editor of the

"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS"

Sir.—Referring to the letter of the Jewish Relief Committee published in today's edition, I should like to state that that publication seems to me one of the most amazing political actions which I have ever experienced in Shanghai. So far as I know from the newspapers the play "Die Masken fallen" is an anti-Nazi work directed against the racial ideology of the Nazis. To call such a work a provocation which should be avoided, seems so much more amazing as, according to all information, the chairman and vice-chairman of the Jewish Committee are Dutch and British citizens. Nevertheless, they are not ashamed to struggle against the performance of a play directed against the same people who have destroyed Rotterdam and are bombing London every day. I am sure that something might have been said by the Nazis are indeed not difficult to comprehend. "Die Masken fallen" is a very remarkable play.

Shanghai, Nov. 5, 1940.

THE NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS

NOV 1 1941

**"Die Masken Fallen":
Refugee Committee Pained**

To the Editor of the

"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS"

Sir,—My committee has noted with pained surprise that the "Shanghai Jewish Chronicle" is sponsoring a play entitled "Die Masken fallen", and wishes to dissociate itself entirely from this project.

My Committee feels very strongly that at a time like the present, anything provocative of discussion should be avoided in this city.

M. SWERDLOW
Chairman, Committee
for Assistance Shanghai
Jewish Refugees.

Shanghai, Nov. 1.

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS

X 21

**"Die Masken Fallen" :
Authors' Reply**

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS"

SIR,—With reference to the letter of M. SPEELMAN, Chairman of the Committee for Assistance of Shanghai Jewish Refugees, published in yesterday's issue of the N.C.D.N., we like to declare that so far as we are informed none of the Committee's members has ever read our play "Die Masken fallen". We are astonished, indeed, that an organization responsible for weal and woe of so many thousands of people is attacking a play which its leaders cannot know, and the only purpose of which is to do service to the understanding between men and races.

MARK SINGELMAN
HANS WIENER

Shanghai, Nov. 3.

7
256
1/4
1/11

L. P. S. Singelman.

H. 4/11



August

21,

40.

Dr. Mark Siegelberg,
41/3 Muirhead Road,
Shanghai.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 12, 1940, in which you made application for permission to stage a play entitled "The Matrimony of Dr. Brach" in the Kinchow Road Centre. The script has been examined and I have to inform you that owing to the international character of the Settlement, permission to stage this play is refused.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "H. H. H.", written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner of Police.

Enclosure Returned.

22/8/40

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "H.", written below the date.

A large handwritten mark, possibly a stylized "2" or "L", written in dark ink.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

C.S.6, Special Branch.

REPORT

DATE August 20, 1940.

Subject..... Attached Communication from Dr. Mark Siegelberg.

Made by..... D.P.S. Danemanis..... Forwarded by..... Supt. Mason.

With reference to the attached communication from Dr. Mark Siegelberg, dated 12-8-40, wherein Police permission to stage a German play entitled "The Matrimony of Dr. Brach" is sought, the following particulars have been obtained:

Dr. Mark Siegelberg, born in Lutzk, Russia, on the 11-6-1895, emigrated in his early youth to Vienna, Austria, where he became the editor of several political newspapers. When Austria was annexed by the third Reich, Dr. Siegelberg was arrested and subsequently sent to several concentration camps in Austria and Germany.

Following his release from the concentration camp he left for Shanghai, arriving here, accompanied by his wife, on the 27-6-39 on board the s.s. "Conte Biancamano". Dr. Siegelberg arrived here with a German "J" passport, but failed to prolong this passport and several months ago took out Russian Emigrants' papers.

Following his arrival here, Dr. Siegelberg, wrote a book entitled "Jewish Prisoner No. 13877", in the German language, which was printed by the American Press, 542 Avenue Joffre. In the said book, Dr. Siegelberg describes his experiences in the various concentration camps in Austria and Germany.

On the 15-8-40, Dr. Siegelberg registered a weekly German language newspaper "Das Echo" (Reg. No. F. 94) but did not commence publication, as he, at that time, received an offer from the "Jewish Chronicle", Hamilton House, to become it's editor. Dr. Siegelberg holds the latter position at present, and is residing at 41/3

Commr. of Police.
Supt.

Information.

D. C. (Sp. Br.)

Reply as
proposed here with
R.D.P.
J/S.

INDEXED BY
(S.B.) REGISTRY

DATE 21/8/40

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

REPORT

.....Station,

Date.....19

- 2 -

Subject.....

Made by.....Forwarded by.....

Muirhead Road.

Several weeks ago Dr.Siegelberg approached D.S.I. Wittinsky enquiring as to the advisability of staging his play "The Matrimony of Dr.Brach" in Shanghai. He was informed by the latter that before staging the play, he would have to get Police permission through the official channels. However, before submitting the manuscript to the Police, Dr.Siegelberg sent a copy of the same to Captain Inatsuki of the Japanese Naval Landing Party, who stated that there are no objections from his point of view, and forwarded a letter of consent to Dr.Siegelberg.

The subject of the above play is definitely political and deals partly with the "Racial Theory". Scenes in a concentration camp (Act 4) dealing with atrocities and tortures of Jews are vividly described. The play which cannot be classified as cultural or recreational is likely to cause incidents and breach of peace, if staged publicly and without Police protection. Attached to this report are several excerpts of the play and their translations.

Enquiries reveal that Dr.Siegelberg's reason for staging "The Matrimony of Dr.Brach" in Shanghai is, of an entirely commercial nature, namely, to assist the sale of the said play in the U.S.A. To push the sale of his manuscript Dr.Siegelberg requires enthusiastic press reviews, which he is able to obtain, being the chief editor of the "Jewish Chronicle".

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.....

REPORT

.....Station,

Date.....19

- 3 -

Subject.....

Made by.....

Forwarded by.....

Dr. Siegelberg proposes to stage this play in the Kinchow Road Camp, 100 Kinchow Road; the date to be fixed subject to the issue of a permit by the Police. The performance is proposed to take place on three consecutive evenings, and an attendance of 300 persons is expected on each occasion. Dr. Siegelberg wishes to stress the fact that the audience will be composed exclusively of German Jewish Refugees, and believes that consequently there will not be any disturbances.

There is nothing to the detriment of Dr. Mark Siegelberg in S.M.P. records.


D. P. S.

D.C. (Special Branch)

Exerts from:

"THE MATRIMONY OF DR. BRACH".

5 Act Play

by

Dr. Mark Siegelberg.

1st Act.

Page 5.

Original:

Forstner: Mit einem Juden werden wir doch nicht viel
Geschichten machen.

Huber: Wie meinst du das. Ich verstehe jetzt nicht recht.

F: Du sagtest doch, dass der Mann die Frau noch immer
liebt und dass sein Einverstaendnis schwer zu haben
sein wird. Aber wenn der Mann Jude ist, so brauchen
wir doch nicht sein Einverstaendnis.

H: Moeglicherweise ist das so in Deutschland. In
Oesterreich sind alle Menschen vor dem Gesetze gleich.

F: Grenzen sind von Menschen gemacht und koennen daher
von Menschen korrigiert werden. Was heute Oesterreich
ist, kann morgen, oder sagen wir uebermorgen, ja,
aber uebermorgen kann es schon Deutschland sein.

1st Act.

Page 5.

Translation:

Forstner: But with a Jew one doesn't have to bother much.

Huber: How do you mean. I don't understand.

F: You said that the husband still loves his wife and
that his consent to divorce her will be difficult to
obtain. But as he is a Jew, his consent is of course
not required.

H. Perhaps it is that way in Germany, but in Austria all
people are equal in the eyes of the law.

F: Borders were made by humans and can also be corrected
by humans. That which is Austria to-day, can be

1st Act:
Page 5. (Continued).

F:(Con'd) morrow or after to-morrow, yes, after to-morrow,
become Germany.

2nd Act:
Page 1.

Original:

(Zimmer bei Dr.Brach, Tisch, Stuehle,Telefon. Die Wohnung
ist gut buergerlich eingerichtet.
Von der Strasse her Trommelwirbel und Gesang: "Die Strasse
frei den breunen Bataillonen...."

2nd Act:
Page 1.

Translation:

Dr. Brach's room. Table, chairs, telephone. Well furnished
apartment.

From the street drums and singing; "Die Strasse frei (Nazi
battle hymn.)

2nd Act:
Page 4.

Original:

Der zweite Herr: Und Sie selber, Sie sind keine Juedin?

Elsa: Nein, ich bin Christin.

Der zweite Herr: Ach Quatsch, Arierin sind Sie. Ich an
Ihrer Stelle wuerde diesen Posten aufgeben. Es
Widerspricht dem arischen Ehrgefuehl, bei einem
Jeden in dienender Stellung zu sein.

2nd Act:
Page 4.

Translation:

The 2nd Gentleman: And you yourself are not a Jewess?

Elsa: No. I'm a Christian.

2nd Gentleman: Trips, you are an Aryan. If I were you
I would resign my position here. It is against the

2nd Act:
Page 4: (Continued).

2nd Gentleman(Con'd).

Aryan sense of propriety to be in service of a Jew.

4th Act:
Page 1.

Original:

(Im Jourhaus des Konzentrationslagers. Die Buehne ist
zweigeteilt. Links Korridor, rechts Amtsstube. Da der
Vorhang aufgeht, marschieren von links drei Maenner in
Straeflingskleidern an. Vor der Tuere der Amtsstube
stehen drei andere Staeflinge.)

Eine Stimme hinter der Szene: Halt! Rechts um.

(Die drei Maenner bleiben stehen und machen rechts um)

Die Sauguden bei der Tuere. Hergestellt! Links um! Marschieren
marsch! Saubande verfluchte, Maul halten, sonst lass ich euch
an den Baum haengen!

4th Act:
Page 1.

Translation:

dealing entirely with cruelties and mishandling of Jews in a
concentration camp.

Above: A voice in the background. "Halt. Right face".

Three prisoners halt and turn right.

"The Jewish pigs by the door, Attention, left turn,
quick march,. You damned herd of swine, hold your
traps, or I'll hang you on a tree, etc, etc.

Follows on page 2- Discussion about a killed person, whose
head has been bashed in by Nazi guards.

Dr. Mark Siegelberg
NO. B. 1914

Shanghai, August 12, 1940

To the
Commissioner,
Shanghai Municipal Police.

Sir,
We beg leave to apply for the permission to stage our play,
"Die Ehe des Doktor Brach" (The matrimony of Dr. Brach) in the Kinohow Road
Refugee Jewish Centre (Kinohow Buehne). The play is in the German language.

The above-mentioned play treats a problem, that for years
has occupied the minds of the Jews in Europe: "Racial Theory". Following
are the contents of the play:

Shortly before the German occupation of Austria, Dr. Brach,
a Jewish journalist, is about to be divorced by his wife Christine, an
"Aryan". The reason for the divorce is, that Christine has fallen in love
with another man. When the Germans take over, Dr. Brach is arrested and
taken to a Concentration Camp. This event makes his wife change her mind.
She resolves to give up the divorce and to hold out until her husband will
be freed. She fights untiringly for the release and finally succeeds. In
this fight lasting many months, the couple again gets convinced, that they
belong to one another, so they emigrate together to Shanghai.
The play sets out to prove, that love between two people,
even if they seemingly belong to different races, is stronger than any
"Racial Theory". The play does not decide itself for either race and
centres on the fight of the "Aryan" woman for her Jewish husband.

On account of the problem, of universal interest, discussed in it, the play has already been accepted by the "Oesterreichische Buehne" in New York, the foremost theatre of German refugees. At the same time the play is translated into English.

The two play-wrights (one of them for more than twenty years editor-in-chief of one of the biggest dailies in Austria) desire that the play, of such interest for Jews, is staged here in a Refugee theatre. We intend to show the play only before an exclusively Jewish Refugee audience and not before the general public. Therefore the "Kinohow-Buehne", the theatre in the Jewish Refugee Centre, Kinohow Road, has been chosen.

The play being staged in Hongkew, has already been examined by the Japanese authorities. They have no objections at all and have forwarded to us their written consent.

Therefore we hope and expect that the Shanghai Municipal Police will give us the necessary permission.

We remain, Sir,

Your obedient servants

Mark Siegelberg

(Dr. Mark Siegelberg. (nom de plume:
Willi Kram) and Hans Wiener.)

1 Enclosure

c/o Dr. Mark Siegelberg
P.O.B. 1914